



FISCAL YEAR 2011 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

As submitted to the Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch on March 31, 2010:

Contingent Expenses of the Senate

Miscellaneous Items

I urge the Subcommittee to provide adequate funding, not less than the fiscal year 2010 enacted level, under the Contingent Expenses of Senate Account for Miscellaneous Items. Of this amount, I urge the Subcommittee to include \$500,000, which shall be made available for a program for mailings of postal patron postcards by Senators for the purpose of providing notice of a town meeting by a Senator in a county (or equivalent unit of local government) at which the Senator will personally attend: Provided, That any amount allocated to a Senator for such mailing shall not exceed 50 percent of the cost of the mailing and the remaining cost shall be paid by the Senator from other funds available to the Senator.

Recognizing that the input of our constituents is critical to a participatory democracy, I regularly visit all sixty-seven counties in Pennsylvania to conduct town meetings. Due to budget constraints and the cost of circulating town meeting notices to every household in our states, additional funding is necessary to allow us to properly advise all of our constituents when we will be holding a town meeting in their area. Town meetings are a valuable forum in which Members can share details of our work and in turn hear directly from constituents about the important issues facing our states and the nation.